DAN ABNETT COLIN MACNEIL

INSURRECTION

LIBERTY

FROM THE PAGES OF JUDGE DREDD

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Published by Rebellion,
Riverside House, Osney Mead,
Oxford, UK. OX2 0ES
www.rebellion.co.uk

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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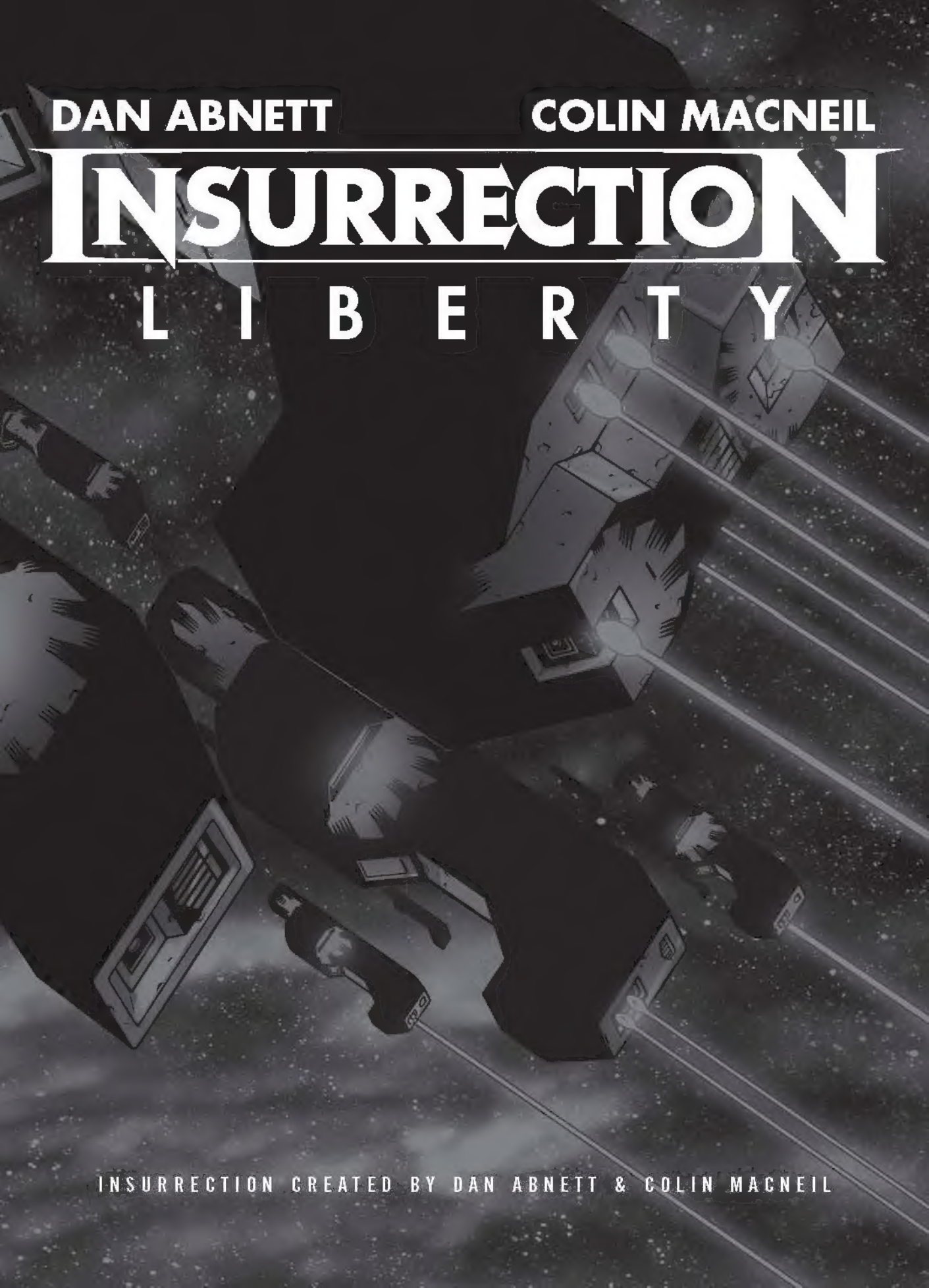
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INSURRECTION CREATED BY DAN ABNETT & COLIN MACNEIL

INTRODUCTION

I suppose the title of this book should really be "Fraternity". The first volume of *Insurrection* was about Judge-like Colonial Marshals freeing their population from the yoke of Mega City repression. The second had them joining forces with another colony and other population types (more meks, mutants and uplifts) to continue the battle. This, the third, sees them ultimately united with their own opponents against a common foe. So, for reasons both thematic and symmetrical, the three volumes should have been named "Liberty", "Equality" and "Fraternity".

Yes, if I'd had my wits about me. Though planned, storywise, volume by volume, *Insurrection* sort of just grew. We wanted to tell a Dredd Universe story, and the key ingredients were going to be off-world settings and Big War. To that, we added a notion of seeing what it might be like to be on the anti-Judge side of the Dredd verse, though not strictly from a criminal perspective.

It's an approach that raised some comments from the readership. How does this fit exactly into Dredd continuity (answer, if you care, it doesn't quite. We imagined this to be in Dredd's future, though we refrained from specifying)? Doesn't this undermine Dredd and his world (well, a little, in that as much as we wanted to try showing things from a different point of view, just for a change)?

One thing we knew was that it would have a very definite end. And this is it. Though some story themes and settings continue in the Megazine strip *Lawless*, this was always a finite tale of principles and causes. It just happens to use the Justice Department as its nemesis. Appropriate, then, that it is ultimately punished for that infringement.

Colin's work shines throughout. He's one of *2000 AD*'s finest and most distinctive artists, and he proved to be a brilliant and imaginative collaborator in this act of law-breaking. When you work with Colin, you don't just get great art, you get fiercely brilliant ideas. Considering that this is such a dark, serious and provocative story, we had an awful lot of fun creating it.

Dan Abnett
Maidstone, November 2014

INSURRECTION: LIBERTY

Script: Dan Abnett
Art: Colin MacNeil
Letters: Simon Bowland

Originally published in the *Judge Dredd Megazine* 334-342

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM WILLARD GALLOWS, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COLONIAL MARSHAL 57565756575, DUTY LOCATION GATEWAY COLONY

TO: THE GALLOWS FAMILY, MEGA-CITY ONE, EARTH

HEY, FOLKS. MUM AND DAD. UNCLE ROONEY. CHRISTA. HEY, ALL.
HOW ARE YOU DOING? ALL PACKED? ALL SET?
SWEAR TO GRUD, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU OUT HERE. YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE GATEWAY COLONY. I'M SO GLAD YOU DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE THE OLD MEG FOR EVER.

MUM, I KNOW IT'S A BIT DAUNTING, BUT YOU WON'T REGRET IT. WITH THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE IN THE OLD MEG THESE DAYS, YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITH A LIFE OFF-WORLD.
THE FUTURE'S OUT HERE. BEAUTIFUL PLACES, HIGHER STANDARDS OF LIVING. JOB PROSPECTS, EVEN FOR AN OLD REPROBATE LIKE UNCLE ROONEY!
SERIOUSLY, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO SMELL THE LIPSKYS' COOKING STINKING THE WHOLE BLOCK AGAIN.

GATEWAY IS AMAZING. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES ARE MAKING THE MOVE AND COMING HERE EACH WEEK. THE COLONIES BECKON.
AND I HAVE GREAT NEWS...BECAUSE OF MY POSITION HERE, I THINK I'VE MANAGED TO GET YOUR COLONISATION VISAS FAST-TRACKED.

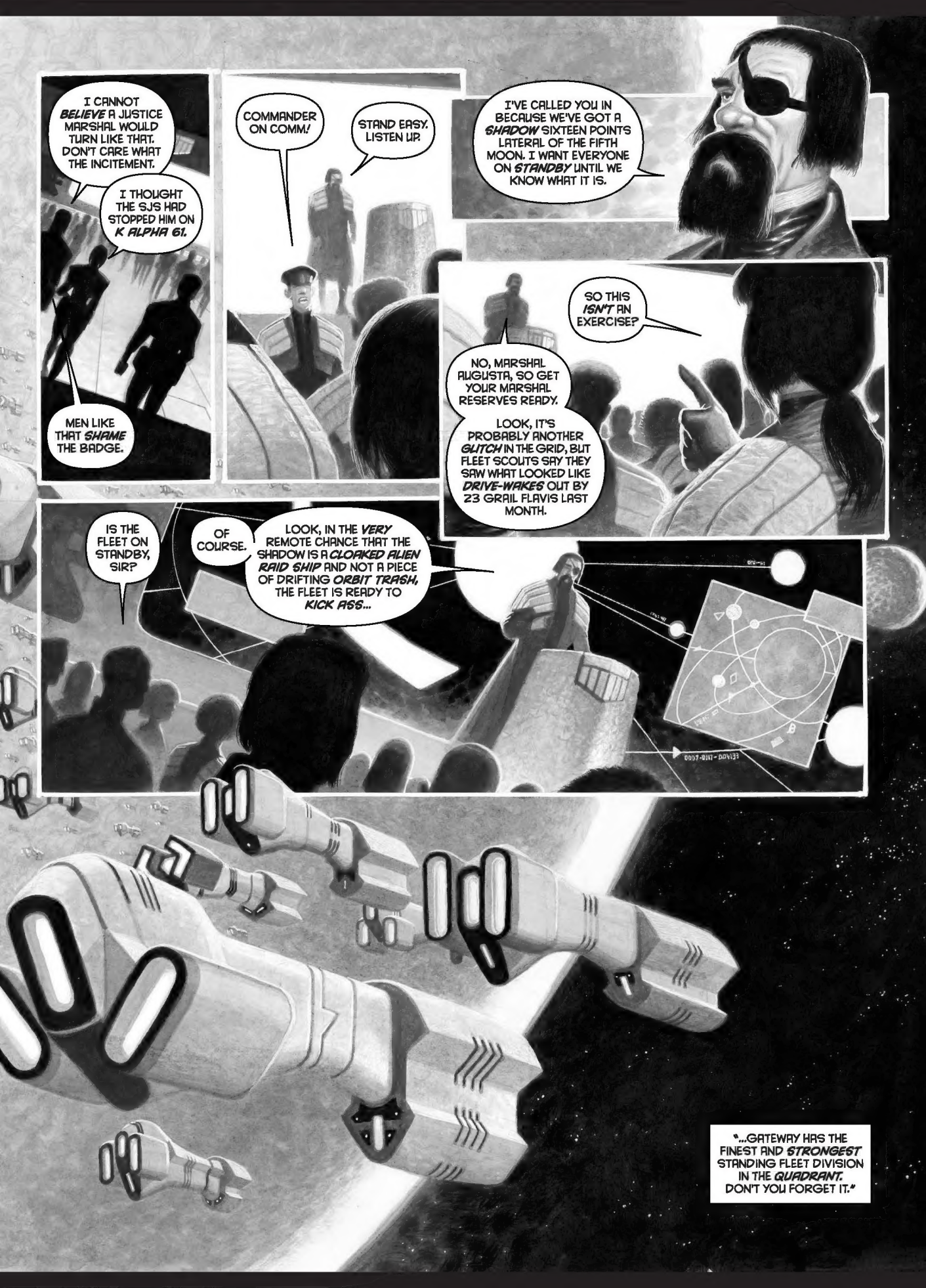
YOU'LL BE HERE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS, BUT THEN YOU'LL BE ON TO YOUR PERMANENT PLACEMENT, A FANTASTIC COLONY WORLD CALLED K GAMMA 23.
APPARENTLY IT'S EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THERE. THEY HAVE MOUNTAINS. YOU ALWAYS SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE MOUNTAINS, MUM.

MESSAGE ENDS

IT'S BEAUTIFUL. SO BEAUTIFUL.
SO MUCH SKY! NOT LIKE THE BIG MEG.
IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU GUYS HERE FINALLY.
THIS IS AN AMAZING THING YOU'RE DOING. AS SOON AS YOU'RE SETTLED ON K GAMMA 23, I'M GOING TO APPLY FOR A TRANSFER SO I CAN--
GATEWAY'S SO BEAUTIFUL!
AND YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF IT, WILLARD?
NO, MUM. NO. I'M A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COLONIAL MARSHAL.
I'M ONE OF THE OFFICERS WHO MAKE GATEWAY A SAFE PLACE. I'M NOT IN CHARGE--
IS IT SAFE, WILL?
YOU HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT ALIENS. ALIENS EATING INNOCENT HUMANS--
THERE ARE NO ALIENS, UNCLE ROONEY--
YOU REMEMBER THE KLEGGS? THEY ATE PEOPLE--
SERIOUSLY, GATEWAY HAS STATE-OF-THE- ART DEFENCES, AND A PERMANENTLY STATIONED FLEET.
NO ALIENS ARE GOING TO TOUCH IT.

THIS IS THE *FUTURE*, MUM, DAD. THE COLONIAL PROGRAMME IS MANKIND'S GREAT EXPANSION. WE'RE MAKING SPACE *SAFE FOR ALL HUMANS.*
TELL ME THIS ISN'T *INFINITELY* PREFERABLE TO MEGA-CITY ONE?
IT'S *HELL* THERE, SON.
I HEARD IT WAS BAD, DAD. HOW--
BAP BAP BAP
WHAT'S *THIS* THING NOW?
SHIFT ALERT. I'M BEING CALLED IN.
I GOTTA GO. SORRY.
YOU GUYS TAKE THE PEDWAY TO YOUR ACCOMMODATION CENTRE, AND I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER.
CAN'T YOU SHOW US AROUND, WILLARD? YOU *PROMISED!*
LATER, CHRISTA. I *DO* PROMISE.

AUGUSTA. WHAT'S UP?
ARE THEY MESSING WITH THE SHIFT ROTAS AGAIN?
NO. SOME KIND OF THING. ANOTHER *EXERCISE* IS MY GUESS.
I THOUGHT I HAD FOUR HOURS OFF.
YEAH, I FORGOT. YOUR FAMILY'S IN, AREN'T THEY?
BIG STEP, AN *OFF-WORLD MOVE.*
YOU LIVE HERE, AUGUSTA. TELL ME IT'S NOT THE *SMART* THING TO DO. EARTH THESE DAYS...
YOU HEAR ABOUT PRODUCTION VENUE 33?
WHAT ABOUT IT?
ANOTHER *UPRISING,* THEY SAY. NOT OFFICIAL YET, BUT IT WAS ON CHANNELS.
DROKKIN' REBELS.
THEY SAY IT'S THAT *LUTHER* AGAIN.

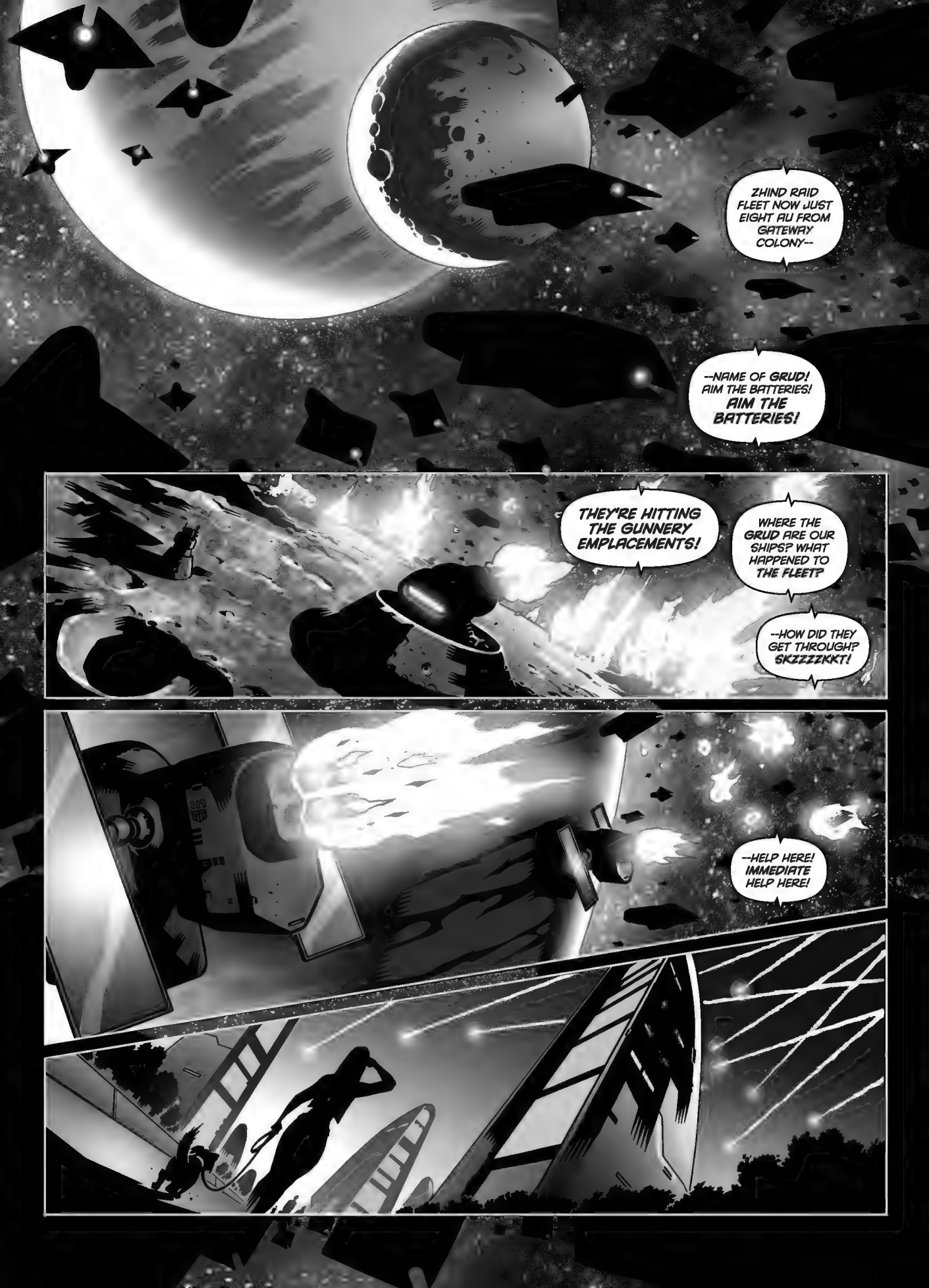

I CANNOT *BELIEVE* A JUSTICE MARSHAL WOULD TURN LIKE THAT. DON'T CARE WHAT THE INCITEMENT.
I THOUGHT THE SJS HAD STOPPED HIM ON *K ALPHA 61.*
MEN LIKE THAT *SHAME* THE BADGE.
COMMANDER ON COMM!
STAND EASY. LISTEN UP.
I'VE CALLED YOU IN BECAUSE WE'VE GOT A *SHADOW* SIXTEEN POINTS LATERAL OF THE FIFTH MOON. I WANT EVERYONE ON *STANDBY* UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT IT IS.
SO THIS *ISN'T* AN EXERCISE?
NO, MARSHAL AUGUSTA, SO GET YOUR MARSHAL RESERVES READY.
LOOK, IT'S PROBABLY ANOTHER *GLITCH* IN THE GRID, BUT FLEET SCOUTS SAY THEY SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE *DRIVE-WAKES* OUT BY 23 GRAIL FLAVIS LAST MONTH.
IS THE FLEET ON STANDBY, SIR?
OF COURSE.
LOOK, IN THE *VERY* REMOTE CHANCE THAT THE SHADOW IS A *CLOAKED ALIEN RAID SHIP* AND NOT A PIECE OF DRIFTING *ORBIT TRASH,* THE FLEET IS READY TO *KICK ASS...*
"...GATEWAY HAS THE FINEST AND *STRONGEST* STANDING FLEET DIVISION IN THE *QUADRANT.* DON'T YOU FORGET IT."

SO CALL IN YOUR RESERVISTS, GET ON YOUR PLACEMENTS, AND *WAIT.*
THIS IS *NOTHING.* WE'LL GET THE ALL-CLEAR IN SIX HOURS. UNTIL THEN, *BY THE BOOK.*
"LOOK, DAD, IT'S JUST A *ROUTINE* THING. AN EXERCISE. I'LL COME BY IN THE MORNING."
EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, WILLARD?
EVERYTHING'S *FINE,* DAD. GO GET A MEAL AND SOME SLEEP. CALM MUM DOWN. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
THIS *IS* JUST AN EXERCISE, RIGHT, MARSHAL GALLOWS?
YES, WHOOPER.
GOOD, 'CAUSE THE NEW RESIDENTIAL BURBS WON'T BUILD *THEMSELVES.*
US UPLIFTS ARE CRAFTSMEN, SIR, NOT SOLDIERS.
YOU'RE *RESERVIST SOLDIERS* RIGHT NOW, WHOOPER. GET THE MEN TO FALL IN.
TROUBLE?
SAME OLD. THE UPLIFTS RESENT BEING RESERVISTS.
THEY'LL RESENT IT MORE IF AN *EXTRO RAID* BITES THEM ON THE ARSE AND THERE'S NO MILITIA TO DRIVE IT OFF.
GIVE ME MY MEK RESERVISTS *ANY* DAY. JUST PROGRAMMED TO DO WHAT THEY DO. NEVER A *WORD* OF COMPLAINT.
AZOOO AZOOO AZOOO
WHAT IN *GRUD'S NAME...?*

"HOLY DROKK! THOSE ARE ZHIND ATTACK SHIPS!"
OKAY, THIS IS THE REAL THING. EVERYONE KEEP THEIR HEADS.
THE FLEET IS BREAKING ANCHOR AND WE WILL BE TAKING THESE ZHIND GATECRASHERS BACK TO THE STONE AGE.

STRATEGIC UPDATE TO MY CONSOLE!
WE'VE STOPPED TWENTY-TWO PER CENT OF THEIR FIRST STRIKE SHIPS, SIR.
TACTICAL PRESENTATION SAYS WE SHOULD TURN THE FLEET, SWITCH TO "FALCON" FORMATION, AND COUNTER STRIKE THEM BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE A DIRECT RUN ON GATEWAY--
HOLD THAT.
SIR?
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED DIRECT ORDERS FROM THE SJS.
THE GATEWAY FLEET IS BEING REROUTED TO SUPPORT VITAL ACTION AT PRODUCTION VENUE 33. WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.
BUT, SIR...
THOSE ARE THE ORDERS. THE REBELLION ON VENUE 33 APPARENTLY PRESENTS A REAL AND DIRECT THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF MEGA-CITY ONE ITSELF.
THERE IS NO HIGHER PRIORITY.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
OPEN COMS. I NEED TO TELL THE TROOPS.

--I SAY AGAIN, THESE ARE OUR NEW ORDERS, ISSUED BY THE SJS AT OH-FIVE-THIRTY TODAY--
WAIT... WHAT?
WHAT THE DROKK IS THIS?


ZHIND RAID FLEET NOW JUST EIGHT AU FROM GATEWAY COLONY--
--NAME OF GRUD! AIM THE BATTERIES! AIM THE BATTERIES!
THEY'RE HITTING THE GUNNERY EMPLACEMENTS!
WHERE THE GRUD ARE OUR SHIPS? WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FLEET?
--HOW DID THEY GET THROUGH? SKZZZZKKT!
--HELP HERE! IMMEDIATE HELP HERE!

GRUD HELP ME.
CHIEF MARSHAL?
YEAH.
PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ORDERS. I'M ASKING YOU TO *CONFIRM* YOUR ORDERS.
YOU *HEARD* ME, DAMMIT...
WE'VE RECEIVED *DIRECT* OVERRIDE ORDERS FROM THE SJS.
THE GATEWAY FLEET IS *REROUTING* TO SUPPORT VITAL ACTION AT PRODUCTION VENUE 33. EFFECTIVE *IMMEDIATE.*
I *KNOW* WHAT *THEIR* ORDERS SAID, SIR...
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL IS THAT YOU *RECOGNISE* THEM *AS* ORDERS!
IT WAS A CLASS *ALPHA-ALPHA DIRECTIVE* FROM THE *SJS!* THE REBELLION ON VENUE 33 PRESENTS AN *PRIMARY* HAZARD TO *MEGA-CITY ONE!*
SO *WHAT?*
WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE GATEWAY WIDE OPEN TO THE *ZHIND?*
WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE THIS COLONY TO *DIE?*
THE MEG *ALWAYS* COMES FIRST.
WE HAVE *NO* CHOICE.

GALLOWS! GALLOWS!
GALLOWS, WAIT!
YOU CAN'T JUST STORM INTO THE BRIDGE!
YOU CAN'T--
THIS IS BULLSHIT, AUGUSTA! BULLSHIT!
WE'RE TURNING ASIDE! YOU HEARD THE CHIEF! WE'RE LEAVING GATEWAY TO BURN!
PRIORITY ORDERS FROM--
I DON'T CARE! I DON'T DROKKING CARE!
YOU DON'T LEAVE PEOPLE TO DIE! I DON'T CARE WHAT THE ORDERS SAY!

GALLOWS?
YOU *KNOW* WHY I'M HERE, SIR.
I KNOW YOU HEARD THE *BROADCAST. EVERYONE* HEARD IT.
RABINOVIC KNOWS WHAT WE HAVE TO DO. HE'S IN COMMAND.
I...I REQUEST THAT YOU CONTACT HIS SHIP, SIR. I REQUEST YOU ASK HIM TO *RECONSIDER* THIS.
YOU AGREE WITH GALLOWS, AUGUSTA?
MARSHAL GALLOWS HAS *FAMILY* ON GATEWAY, SIR, SO HE'S--
YES, SIR. I *AGREE* WITH GALLOWS.
WE HAVE A *DUTY OF CARE* TO THE COLONY. IT'S AN *UNTENABLE* ORDER FOR THE SJS TO ISSUE. THE PROVOCATION DOESN'T *MATTER.*
I DOUBT THEY WOULD *MAINTAIN* THE DIRECTIVE IF THEY KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING HERE.

I SEE.
YOU'RE NOT THE *ONLY* ONES WHO THINK LIKE THIS.
IRONIC, ISN'T IT?
THOSE GRUDDAMN INSURRECTIONISTS ON VENUE 33 ARE GOING TO MAKE INSURRECTIONISTS OUT OF *US.*
SIGNAL THE CHIEF MARSHAL'S SHIP. INFORM HIM THAT THIS VESSEL WILL *NOT* BE COMPLYING WITH HIS ORDERS AT THIS TIME.
SIR.
THEN SIGNAL THE FLEET. ANYONE WHO FEELS THE WAY *WE* DO IS INVITED TO TURN BACK *WITH* US.
WE'LL COORDINATE TACTICS ON THE RUN AS WE GO BACK IN.
SIR!
GET BACK TO THE RESERVISTS. GET THEM *READY.*
THIS FIGHT IS GOING TO BE A *LOT* TOUGHER THAN IT LOOKED AT THE START.
"A HELLUVA *LOT* TOUGHER."

VECTOR CHANGE! HARD ABOUT! FULL BURN SUB-LIGHT ENGINES!
EIGHT SHIPS HAVE TURNED BACK.
HOW MANY?
EIGHT, CHIEF MARSHAL.
EACH ONE HAS EXPRESSED THEIR REGRET THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO FOLLOW YOUR COMMAND.
I'M SORRY, NINE.
THE ESCORT CLAWS OF JUSTICE JUST SIGNALLED ITS INTENT TOO.
DAMN THEM.
WHAT DO WE DO, SIR?
LEAVE THEM. THEY'RE... REBELS. WE'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER.
LIGHT THE JUMP ENGINES. WE HAVE ORDERS.

--HOSTILES ALL OVER THE PLACE!
--REST OF THE FLEET'S GONE! IT JUMPED OUT!
--ON OUR OWN--
--LOST THE MARK OF LAW ALREADY!
--HOW MANY ARE WE?
--EIGHT SHIPS! JUST EIGHT!
--NEED TO COORDINATE! OUR FLANK IS WIDE OPEN!
--THAT WAS THE RULE OF LAW! WE JUST LOST THE GRUDDAM FRIGATE!
GET READY.
WE WEREN'T MADE FOR THIS.
THIS IS INSANE.
THIS IS JUSTICE.
PROTECTING YOUR OWN FROM ATTACK IS JUSTICE.
FIGHTING SOMEONE ELSE'S WAR IS INSANE.

--GOING IN NOW!
--MISSILE STRIKE! SURFACE HITS! SURFACE HITS!
DROP TROOPS! WE'RE READING MASS DEPLOYMENT!
GET READY FOR DROP. JUST LIKE WE PRACTISED.
YES, MA'AM.
ATTENTION! ZHIND FORCES HAVE NOW DEPLOYED ONTO THE SURFACE OF GATEWAY COLONY!
PREPARE FOR SURFACE DROP! FULL MILITARY SPREAD!
GATEWAY
You're Welcome
COME ON, COME ON...
GET READY, UPLIFTS--

GO!
GO! GO!

CONTROL DROP!
KEEP THE DROKKING STICK TOGETHER!
GRUD!
SURFACE-TO-AIR!
GALLOWS LEADING UPLIFT RESERVIST SQUAD KAPPA!
DROPPING IN NOW OVER GATEWAY CITY CARGO PORT!

SIT REP, GALLOWS-KAPPA!
STAND BY...
GRUDDAM ZHIND EVERYWHERE!
THEY'VE GOT DROP TROOPS ALL OVER THE ZONE!
FOOOM
BRAKING JETS! FIRE!
KEEP THE STICK TOGETHER!
OH MY GRUD.
LOOK WHAT THEY DID.
LOOK WHAT THEY DID.

IMPACT! KEEP IT TIGHT!
GRUD--
HI-EX!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
DISPERSAL! PICK YOUR TARGETS!

SPREAD LEFT!
SPREAD LEFT, GRUDDAMIT!
TAKE A DROKKING ORDER!
THEY'RE ALL OVER--
HIT THAT CLOSE-SUPPORT UNIT!

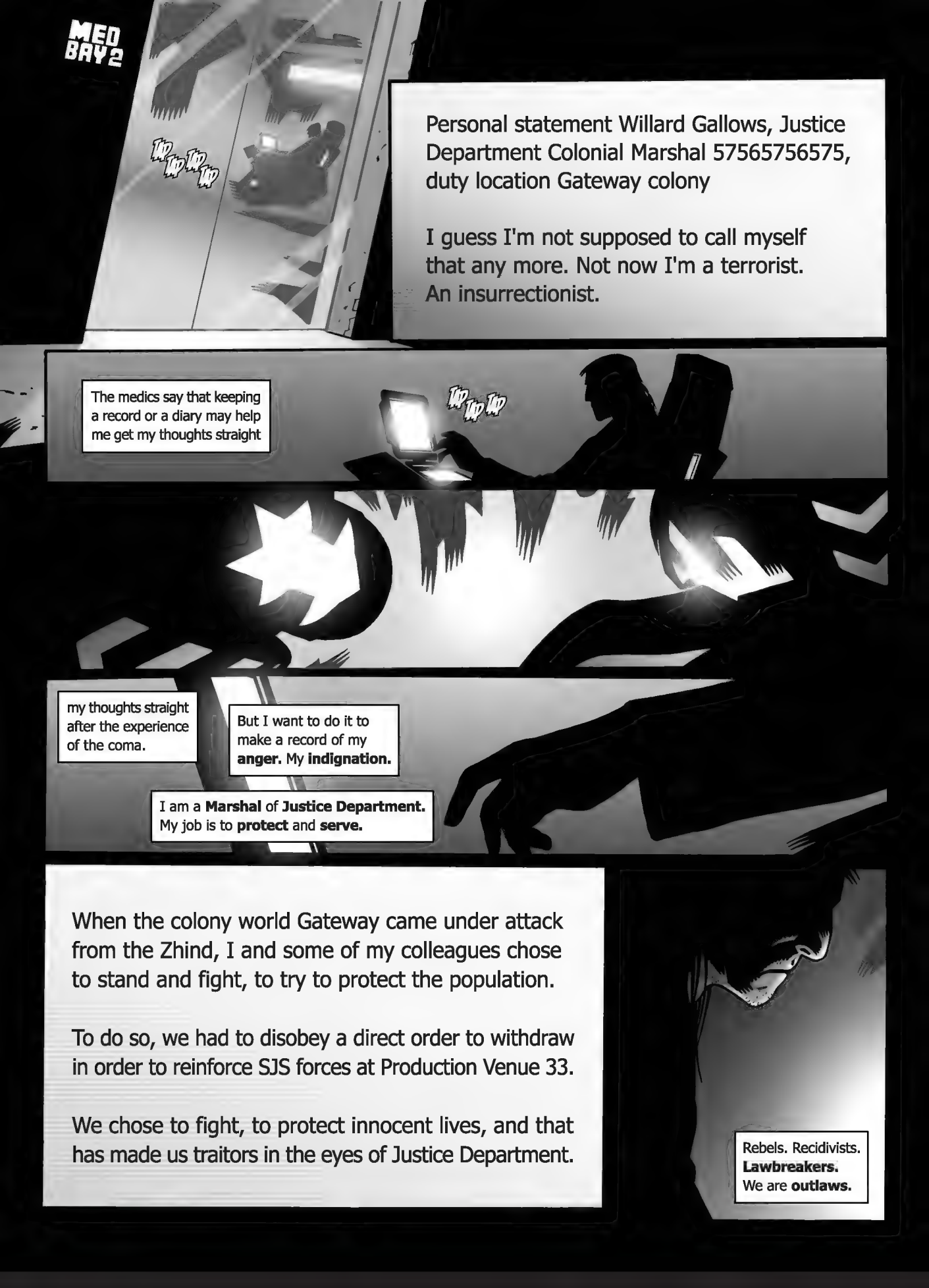
GEEHHK!
GRUD—
SUCK IT, ZHIND BASTARDS!
DROKK!

OH NO.
UGHNN!
-KOFF-
-KOFF-
THEY'RE TAC-NUKING THE CITIES!
THEY'RE TAC-NUKING THE BLOCKS!
UNFFF!
MUM
DAD
CHRISTA

FLEE C'SOO DA.
NDUKK BLA DSJJ.
NASSSO! NASSSO M'AL.U!
UHHH?
SUCK IT! SUCK ON THIS!
MA'SS'LL D'BOU!
FOR EARTH! FOR THE MEG!

-uk-

HOW LONG WAS I DEAD?
THREE WEEKS.
AND YOU WEREN'T *DEAD*, GALLOWS. YOU WERE--
AS GOOD AS.
WE HAD TO *EVAC*.
ONE OF YOUR UPLIFTS CARRIED YOU OUT.
EVAC...
WE WERE *BEATEN* THEN? GATEWAY'S *GONE*?
I'M *SORRY*.
DO YOU REMEMBER *ANYTHING*?
NO.
REALLY?
NOT A THING.
OKAY.
SO WHERE ARE WE NOW, AUGUSTA?
US? WE'RE ON THE RUN FROM *JUSTICE DEPARTMENT*.


MED BAY 2
TAP TAP TAP TAP
Personal statement Willard Gallows, Justice Department Colonial Marshal 57565756575, duty location Gateway colony
I guess I'm not supposed to call myself that any more. Not now I'm a terrorist. An insurrectionist.
The medics say that keeping a record or a diary may help me get my thoughts straight
TAP TAP TAP
my thoughts straight after the experience of the coma.
But I want to do it to make a record of my **anger.** My **indignation.**
I am a **Marshal** of **Justice Department.** My job is to **protect** and **serve.**
When the colony world Gateway came under attack from the Zhind, I and some of my colleagues chose to stand and fight, to try to protect the population.
To do so, we had to disobey a direct order to withdraw in order to reinforce SJS forces at Production Venue 33.
We chose to fight, to protect innocent lives, and that has made us traitors in the eyes of Justice Department.
Rebels. Recidivists. **Lawbreakers.** We are **outlaws.**

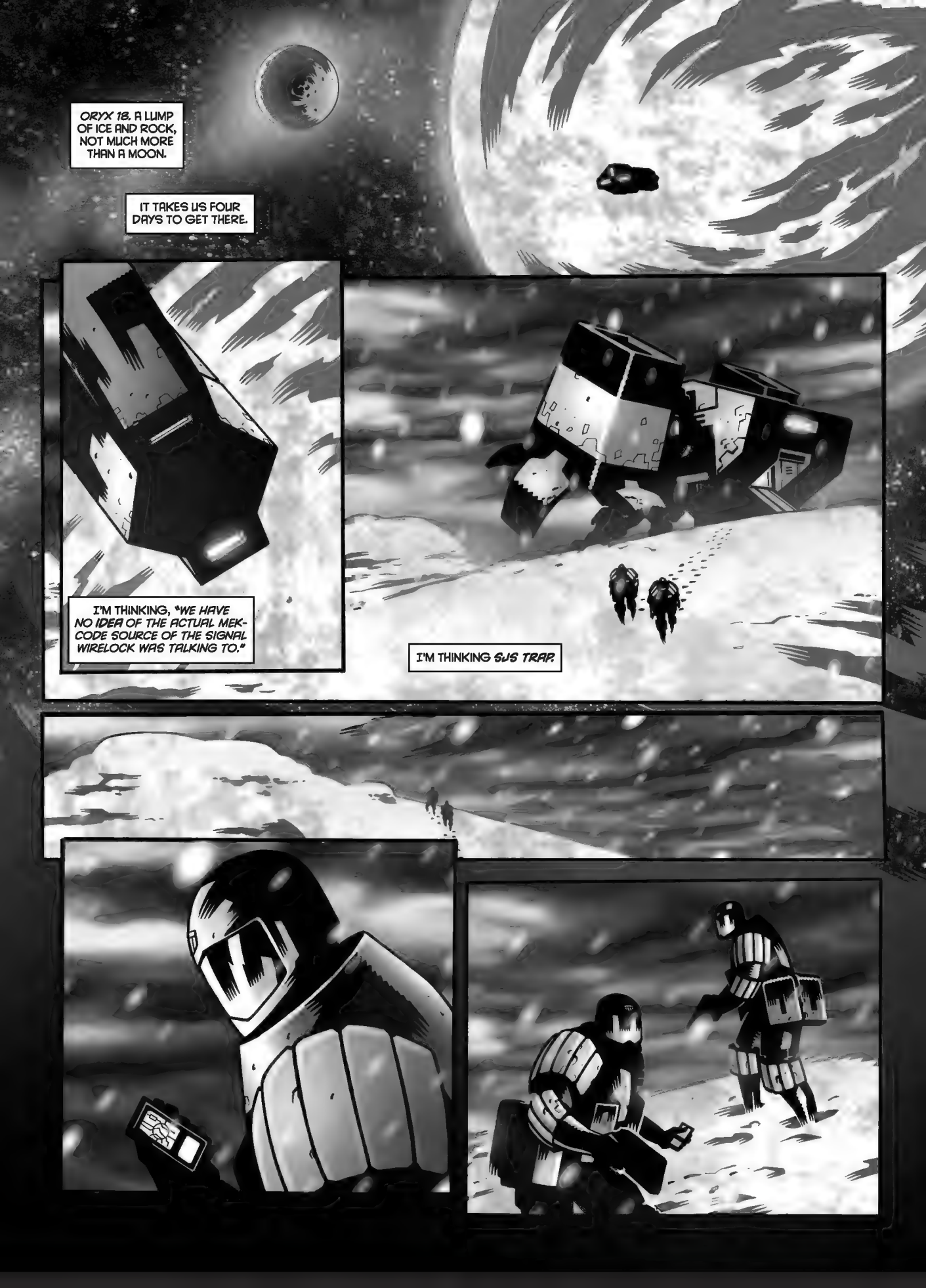
I lost my **family** at Gateway. I need to state **clearly** that while I mourn them deeply, my anger is **not** born out of that loss.
It is a response to the sheer **inhumanity** of the so-called **Justice Department.**
There is great **irony,** of course. The orders that we ignored were to have redeployed us in support of the SJS against a **genuine** insurrectionist, Karel Luther.
Luther has staged uprisings at K Alpha 61 and Production Venue 33.
He has **directly** threatened the security and welfare of Mega-City One.
SO WHAT DO WE HAVE?
I don't care **what** his motives, he **shames** the badge.
And now **we're** branded rebels as if we're just **like** him.

JUST THE ONE SHIP. FIVE HUNDRED PERSONNEL, INCLUDING MEKS AND UPLIFTS.
YOU AND ME, GALLOWS, WE'RE THE SENIOR RANKING SURVIVORS.
WE'RE IN CHARGE.
SO... WHAT? WE TURN OURSELVES IN? HOPE FOR CLEMENCY?
DROKK THAT.
I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA.
GO ON.
LUTHER.
HE CAUSED THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE! HIS DROKKING INSURRECTION TRIGGERED THE ORDERS WE HAD TO BREAK!
WHAT? NO WAY!
WE SEEK HIM OUT AND SIDE WITH HIM BECAUSE WE'RE NOW ALL REBELS TOGETHER?
NO WAY, AUGUSTA!
I'VE BEEN STUDYING THE DATA. HE SEEMS TO BE A MAN OF PRINCIPLE.
ALL HE DID WAS REACT TO THE INJUSTICE OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT EDICTS.
I THINK WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN YOU IMAGINE.

DIDN'T THE SJS CRUSH HIM AT PRODUCTION VENUE 33?
NO. HE HAD SOMETHING. SOME SECRET WEAPON. SOME TRUMP CARD.
THAT'S WHY THE SJS CALLED FOR REINFORCEMENTS. THEY WERE GOING IN FOR THE KILL.
AND WHEN WE DIDN'T ALL FOLLOW ORDERS...?
THE SJS DIDN'T HAVE THE FIREPOWER TO CLOSE THE DEAL.
YOU NOT EATING THAT PUDDING?
WHATEVER HIS TRUMP CARD WAS, GALLOWS, WHEN THE SJS REALISED THEY COULDN'T OUTGUN HIM THEY WERE SO AFRAID OF IT THEY BACKED DOWN.
THEY FORMALLY AGREED TO LEAVE PRODUCTION VENUE 33 ALONE.
AS FAR AS I KNOW, LUTHER AND HIS KEY PEOPLE THEN LEFT VENUE 33 AND WENT INTO HIDING.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?
BECAUSE FOR THE LAST WEEK, ONE OF MY MEKS HAS BEEN TALKING TO ONE OF HIS.
WIRELOCK HERE AS BEEN IN SECURE-LINK DIALOGUE WITH ONE OF LUTHER'S TEAM, A MEK CALLED RAMSSES.
AT MARSHAL AUGUSTA'S INSTIGATION, I HAVE SHARED OUR SITUATION AND PREDICAMENT.
I APPEARS THE LIBERTY INSURRECTIONISTS ARE SYMPATHETIC.

WE COULD *POOL* OUR RESOURCES. LUTHER HAS A GREAT DEAL MORE EXPERIENCE OF THIS...*SITUATION* THAN WE DO.
HE COULD *SUPPORT* US, *GUIDE* US.
BUT--
I WANT TO *TALK* TO HIM, GALLOWS. I WANT TO HEAR WHAT THE MAN HAS TO *SAY.*
I WANT TO FIND OUT IF I MADE THE *RIGHT CHOICE* AT GATEWAY.
I BROKE *ORDERS,* FOR GRUD'S SAKE. I BROKE ORDERS BECAUSE I BELIEVED IN A *PRINCIPLE,* IN A *GREATER MORAL GOOD.*
I NEED TO FIND OUT *WHY* HE DID WHAT HE DID.
I MAY RECOGNISE SOME OF MY *OWN* TRUTHS IN THAT, OR I MAY RECOGNISE A GREAT ETHICAL *MISTAKE.*
HE MAY *VINDICATE* ME, GALLOWS, OR I MAY SEE IN HIM THE KIND OF *MONSTER* I HAVE *ALSO* BECOME.
EITHER WAY, I MIGHT *SLEEP* AGAIN.

N'DUK KAKOKKD!
AAAHH!
AUGUSTA?
SO WHERE *IS* HE?
GRUD... OH GRUD...


ORYX 18. A LUMP OF ICE AND ROCK, NOT MUCH MORE THAN A MOON.
IT TAKES US FOUR DAYS TO GET THERE.
I'M THINKING, "WE HAVE NO IDEA OF THE ACTUAL MEK-CODE SOURCE OF THE SIGNAL WIRELOCK WAS TALKING TO."
I'M THINKING SJS TRAP.

WELCOME TO
EQUALITY.

"THIS IS ORYX 18. WE CALL IT EQUALITY."
IT'S A PLACE TO LAY LOW RIGHT NOW.
THE ICE CAVES MAKE DECENT REPAIR SILOS.
SO, I'M LUTHER.
AND I'M SORRY.
YOU--
YOU'RE WHAT?

I'M SORRY.
I'VE BEEN BRIEFED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT GATEWAY.
THE SJS PULLED THE PROTECTION FLEET FROM GATEWAY AND LEFT IT TO THE ZHIND.
THEY LEFT A COLONY WORLD TO DIE BECAUSE OF YOU.
YEAH, THEY DID.
WHY?
HE HAD HIS FINGER ON THE BUTTON. LITERALLY.
WE HAD THE MEANS TO PERMANENTLY CRIPPLE MEGA-CITY ONE'S TECHNOLOGY BASE.
SO, YEAH, COMPARED TO THAT, AN ALIEN RAID WAS A SECONDARY THREAT.
BUT... YOU DIDN'T PRESS THIS "BUTTON"?
I WANTED TO SCARE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT INTO PROPER NEGOTIATION. FULL RIGHTS FOR THE UPLIFTS, MUTANTS AND MEKS. EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR SINCE LIBERTY.
THEIR RESPONSE WAS THE DEPLOYMENT OF GREATER FIREPOWER.
THE SJS DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH FLEET STRENGTH TO FINISH US. THEY WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW.
AND THAT, I THINK, WAS BECAUSE OF YOU.
YOU DISOBEYED ORDERS AND STAYED ON STATION TO FIGHT THE ZHIND.
WE STILL LOST GATEWAY.
BUT YOU NEVER LOST YOUR PRINCIPLES.
SO, NO, I DIDN'T PRESS THE BUTTON.
BECAUSE THAT WOULD HAVE MADE ME NO BETTER THAN THEM.

UH...
YOU OKAY?
I SAID, YOU OKAY?
YEAH. JUST TIRED.
YOUR NAME'S *GALLOWS,* RIGHT?
I'M *FREELY.* I'VE BEEN WITH LUTHER SINCE *DAY ONE.*
OUR STRUGGLE CAME OUT OF THE WAR WITH THE ZHIND.
THEY'D COME GUNNING FOR OUR COLONY, AND THE MEG WOULDN'T HELP US.
WE ENDED UP WAGING AND *WINNING* THE WAR BY STANDING UP AND FIGHTING *TOGETHER.* WE MADE *EVERYONE* A CITIZEN.

AND THAT ENFRANCHISEMENT OF MEKS AND UPLIFTS AND MUTAGENICS--
YEAH, ALL VERY *INSPIRING*. I LOST MY *FAMILY* ON GATEWAY.
I'M SORRY.
GALLOWS, THE SJS SACRIFICED GATEWAY BECAUSE IT DIDN'T *MATTER ENOUGH* TO THEM.
IT WAS NOT A COMMERCIALLY *IMPORTANT* WORLD. IT WAS JUST A *SHOW HOME*.
WHAT?
IT WAS AN *IDEALISED VERSION* OF COLONIAL LIFE DESIGNED TO ENTICE PEOPLE OFFWORLD.
IT WAS PART OF A *SALES PITCH* FOR EMIGRATION TO THE STARS.
MAY I ASK, SIR, WHAT YOUR INTENDED COURSE OF ACTION IS *NOW?*
YOU HAD THE MEG AT YOUR *MERCY*.
I STILL *DO*. THE PULSE VIRUS STILL EXISTS. I CAN *STILL* PRESS THE BUTTON.
I ♡ LIBERTY
BUT THE ZHIND ATTACK ON GATEWAY *CHANGES* THINGS, I THINK.
I HEARD IT WAS *HUGE*.
THE SKY WAS BLACK WITH SHIPS.
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THEM MASSING IN *SUCH* NUMBERS.
FROM THE DATA, IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS MUCH *MORE* THAN A RAID.
BIGGER EVEN THAN THE ASSAULT ON K ALPHA 61--AND *THAT* FELT LIKE A WAR TO US.

THE SJS TOLD ME THEY DENIED K ALPHA 61 SUPPORT BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T WANT TO COMMIT TO AN *ALIEN WAR.*
THE MEG IS TRYING TO SET UP A *PROPER* COLONIAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR OFFWORLD DEVELOPMENT.
THEY DON'T HAVE SPARE RESOURCES TO *FIGHT* A MAJOR CONFLICT.
MEGA-CITY ONE'S OFFWORLD EXPANSION IS AT A *FRAGILE* AND *VULNERABLE* STATE.
BUT I BELIEVE THE ZHIND TOOK GATEWAY AS A *STARTING GAMBIT.* THEY'VE BEEN RAIDING OUR SPACE FOR YEARS, BUT *THIS* IS THE REAL THING.
THE SJS HAVE GOT AN ALIEN WAR *ANYWAY.*
WHICH MEANS, IN NEGOTIATING ON BEHALF OF THE COLONIST COMMUNITY AND THE DISENFRANCHISED, I HAVE *LEVERAGE.*
I DON'T *NEED* THE PULSE VIRUS. I'VE GOT A BARGAINING CHIP *THEY* ACTUALLY *WANT.*
WHAT IS IT?

MY REBEL FORCES. ALMOST HALF A *MILLION* INSURRECTIONISTS ON SHIPS AND COLONIES SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THIS SECTOR.
THEY'VE GOT A WAR THEY DON'T *WANT*. I'VE GOT AN ARMY THAT COULD STAND *WITH* THEM.
YOU'D *DO* THAT?
IF THEY MET MY TERMS, I WOULD *GLADLY* BRING THE INSURRECTIONIST FORCES INTO THE WAR TO STAND WITH THE MEG AGAINST THE ZHIND.
IF THERE'S A WAR...
IT'S COMING.
GATEWAY WAS THE *OPENING SHOT.*
LUTHER!
SIMEON?
BAD NEWS. THE GRID JUST PICKED UP AN *SJS STRIKE FLEET* COMING *RIGHT* AT US, *ATTACK SPEED.*
THEY'VE *FOUND* US.

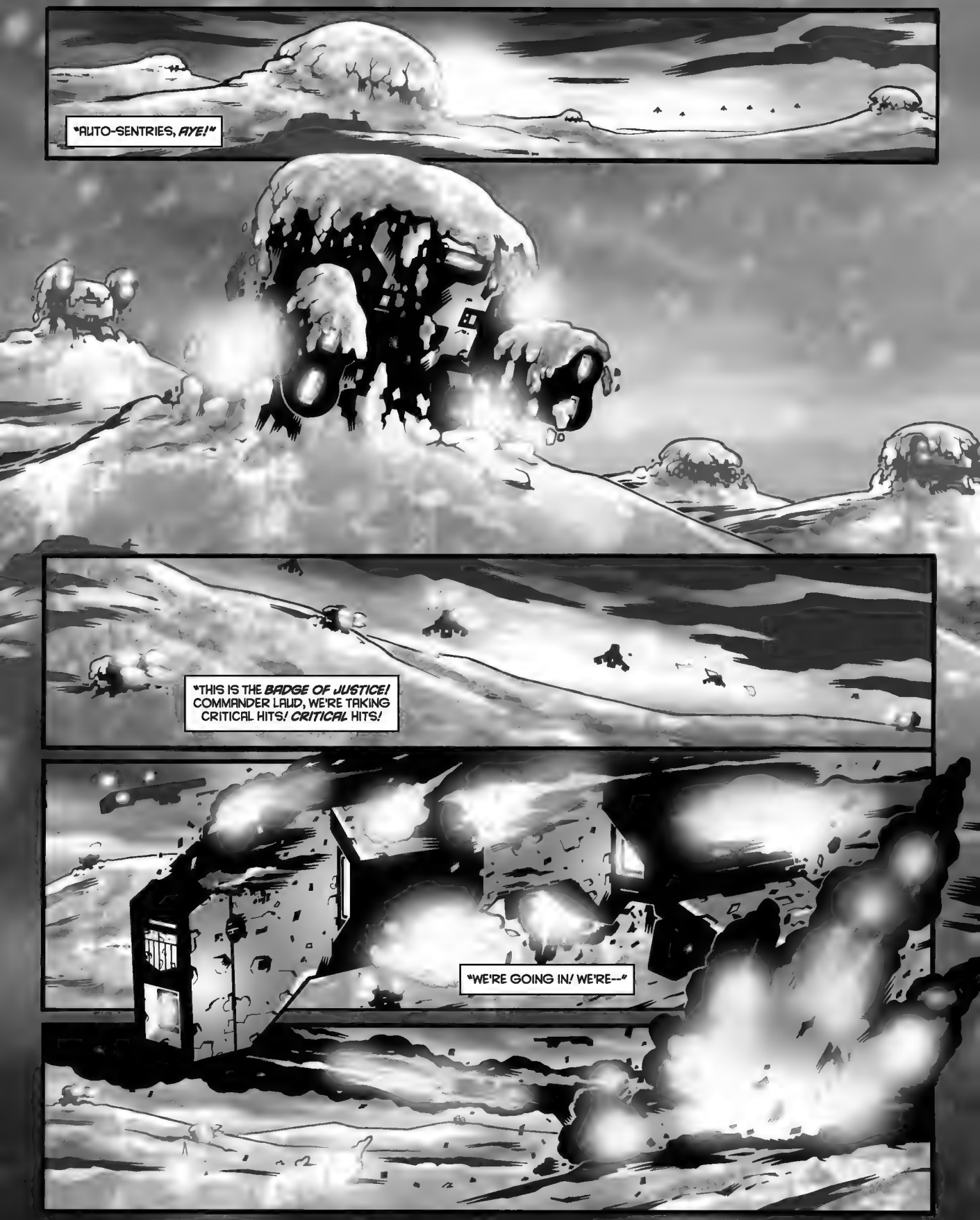
IMPOSSIBLE, WE CLOAKED EVERY--
YES, WE DID. WHICH MEANS SOMEONE TOLD THEM WHERE WE WERE.
DROKK IT! GET US MOBILISED!
PLAY THE TRANSMISSION AGAIN AND COMPARE SIGNAL TO SOURCE.

MESSAGE FROM WILLARD GALLOWS, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COLONIAL MARSHAL 57565756575 TO SJS LISTENING WATCH.
TRACK THIS MESSAGE TO SOURCE. I HAVE DISCOVERED THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE INSURRECTIONIST COMMAND CELL, WHICH INCLUDES KAREL LUTHER.
DIVERT YOUR ASSAULT FORCES IMMEDIATELY TO ORYX 18.
TRANSMISSION SOURCE HAS REMAINED CONSTANT. WE ARE DETECTING AT LEAST ONE SHIP IN ORBIT AND PERHAPS SEVERAL SECURED IN ICE CAVES BENEATH THE SURFACE.
COMMENCING ATTACK RUN ON YOUR ORDERS, COMMANDER LAUD.
THIS ORYX 18, THIS ICEBALL...

"...MELT IT."

INCOMING!
INCOMING!
SHIELDS!
SHIELDS, NOW!
TOO LATE, LUTHER--

SURFACE TARGETS LIT, COMMANDER LAUD.
FULL WEAPON UNLOAD.
TARGETS BURNING.
PRESS ON. DO NOT VEER OFF.
ANNIHILATE THEM.
"THEY'RE NOT BREAKING OFF!"
OF COURSE THEY AREN'T. THIS IS A KILL-RUN.
THEN WE'RE DEAD.
IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'D HAVE DONE. HARD, FAST, TERMINAL.
KILL EVERYTHING IN ONE PASS. IT'S THE TACTICS WE USED IN THE ZHIND WAR, SIMEON, MY FRIEND.
WE ALWAYS KNEW IT EXPOSED US. THIS EXPOSES THEM.
AUTO-SENTRIES NOW!


"AUTO-SENTRIES, AYE!"
"THIS IS THE BADGE OF JUSTICE! COMMANDER LAUD, WE'RE TAKING CRITICAL HITS! CRITICAL HITS!
"WE'RE GOING IN! WE'RE--"

OH DEAR GRUD!
I NEVER MEANT FOR THIS...
WHAT? GALLOWS? WHAT DID YOU DO?
WHAT THE DROKK DID YOU DO?
THE BASTARD SOLD US OUT.
I SAW THE COM-LOG, YOU DROKKER. YOU SIGNALLED THE SJS.
FREELY--
WHAT DID YOU DO, YOU BASTARD? DID YOU TELL THE SJS WHERE WE WERE?
OF COURSE HE DIDN'T--
YES, I DID.
WHY?
BECAUSE--

BRACE FOR IMPACT!
BRACE FOR IMPACT!

NNNH--
NHH...NHHH...
FREELY!
DROKK, NO!
FREELY,
COME ON!
OH GRUD.
OH MY
GRUD...
UNHHHHH...

"OH MY DEAR GRUD..."
THEY DID THIS. THE ZHIND DID THIS.
YES, THEY DID, WILLARD GALLOWS. THE MEMORY DAMS FINALLY COLLAPSE.
YOU REMEMBER IT ALL, IN A SCORCHING FLOOD.
THEY BRAINWASHED YOU. THE ZHIND PROGRAMMED YOU.
THE ZHIND WANTED HUMAN AGENTS TO SMOKE OUT THE "MIGHTY LUTHER", THE ONLY HUMAN WHO HAD EVER STOPPED THEM.
THE ZHIND WANTED THE HUMAN HERO DEAD.
AND YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE. NOT ANYONE. THE PROGRAMMING PREVENTS YOU.
PROGRAMMING THAT THRIVES ON YOUR ANGER AND LOSS.
YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE. YOU'RE MUTE, A TRAITOR.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO!
WE COULD USE THIS RECENTLY OBTAINED INFORMATION, KAREL LUTHER.

OH DROKK...
OPEN ME A LINK! NOW! TO LAUD!
QUICKLY, BEFORE HIS GRUDDAMNED FLEET COMES IN FOR A SECOND PASS!
LUTHER TO LAUD! LISTEN TO ME!
I HAVE ELEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-EIGHT COMBAT-READY VESSELS IN THIS SECTOR, AND I CAN MOBILISE THEM ALL WITH ONE COMMAND.
LAUD, THEY'RE ALL INSURRECTIONISTS.
I HAVE JUST BEEN GIVEN DATA THAT THE ZHIND HAVE INVADED HUMAN SPACE EN MASSE ACROSS THE TRILATERAL LINE.
WE HAVE A COMMON ENEMY, LAUD.
WELL?

ARE YOU GOING TO *KILL* US, LAUD?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO LET US *HELP* YOU SAVE THE *WHOLE HUMAN DROKKING RACE?*

SO...THE WAR WITH THE ZHIND.
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT *THAT.*
LET ME TELL YOU HOW VICTORY WAS ACHIEVED.
LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE PRICE THAT WAS *PAID* FOR THAT VICTORY.
THE ZHIND WAR LASTED ABOUT SIXTEEN WEEKS...
*AFTER YEARS OF RUTHLESS, SPORADIC RAIDING AND SMALL-SCALE CONFLICTS, THE ZHIND ATTACKED WITH A *FULL-SCALE MILITARISED FLEET.*

"THEY INVADED HUMAN SPACE ACROSS THE TRILATERAL LINE AND SMOKED THE FIRST FEW COLONIES THEY FOUND.
"88 JERICHO.
"18 MONTAIGNE.
"THE WAR ITSELF CONSISTED OF SIX MAJOR ACTIONS, MOST OF THEM FLEET ENGAGEMENTS.
"WOLFENSTAR 77154 WAS THE MOST *SIGNIFICANT.*"
BUT THE *PRINCIPAL* BATTLE OF THE WAR WAS A *SURFACE FIGHT* THAT TOOK PLACE ON 43 REGA...

*THAT WAS THE GAME-CHANGER. MEG FORCES HAD ONE CHANCE TO STOP THE ZHIND BEFORE THEY CROSSED INTO THE INNER COLONIES AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM ITSELF.

*JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FORCES AND EARTH-MIL DETACHMENTS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO BLOCK THEM.
*THE ZHIND HAD NUMERICAL STRENGTH, ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY *AND* EXTRAORDINARY DISCIPLINE.
*BUT SJS COMMANDER LAUD HAD A SURPRISE CARD TO PLAY...
*...THE INSURRECTIONIST FORCES OF RENEGADE MARSHAL *KAREL LUTHER.*
ARE WE DOING THE RIGHT THING, LUTHER?

LAUD HAD US *COLD*, FREELY. OFFERING TO STAND WITH HIM AGAINST THE ZHIND WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD STOP HIM *ANNIHILATING* US.
BUT YES, WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING *ANYWAY*.
WE'VE FOUGHT FOR LIBERTY, FOR THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS.
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING SINCE OUR INSURRECTION *BEGAN*.
THE WHOLE *HUMAN RACE* IS AT RISK RIGHT NOW. OF *COURSE* WE'RE DOING THE RIGHT THING.
WHEN IT'S OVER--
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ITS OVER *WHEN IT'S OVER*.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVEN'T LOCKED GALLOWS UP, HE--
YEAH, HE *BETRAYED US* TO THE SJS.
HE WAS *ANGRY*. HE BLAMED US... *ME*...FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS FAMILY AT GATEWAY.
AND IN A *REAL* WAY, HE'S *RIGHT*. OUR INSURRECTION DID COST HIM HIS FAMILY AND HIS HONOUR.
SEEING AS WE NEED *EVERY* ABLE-BODIED SOLDIER WE CAN GET RIGHT NOW, I THINK I'LL LET HIM WALK.
*LUTHER WAS *WRONG* ABOUT GALLOWS. GALLOWS HAD BETRAYED LUTHER BECAUSE THE ZHIND HAD *PROGRAMMED* HIM TO DO SO.

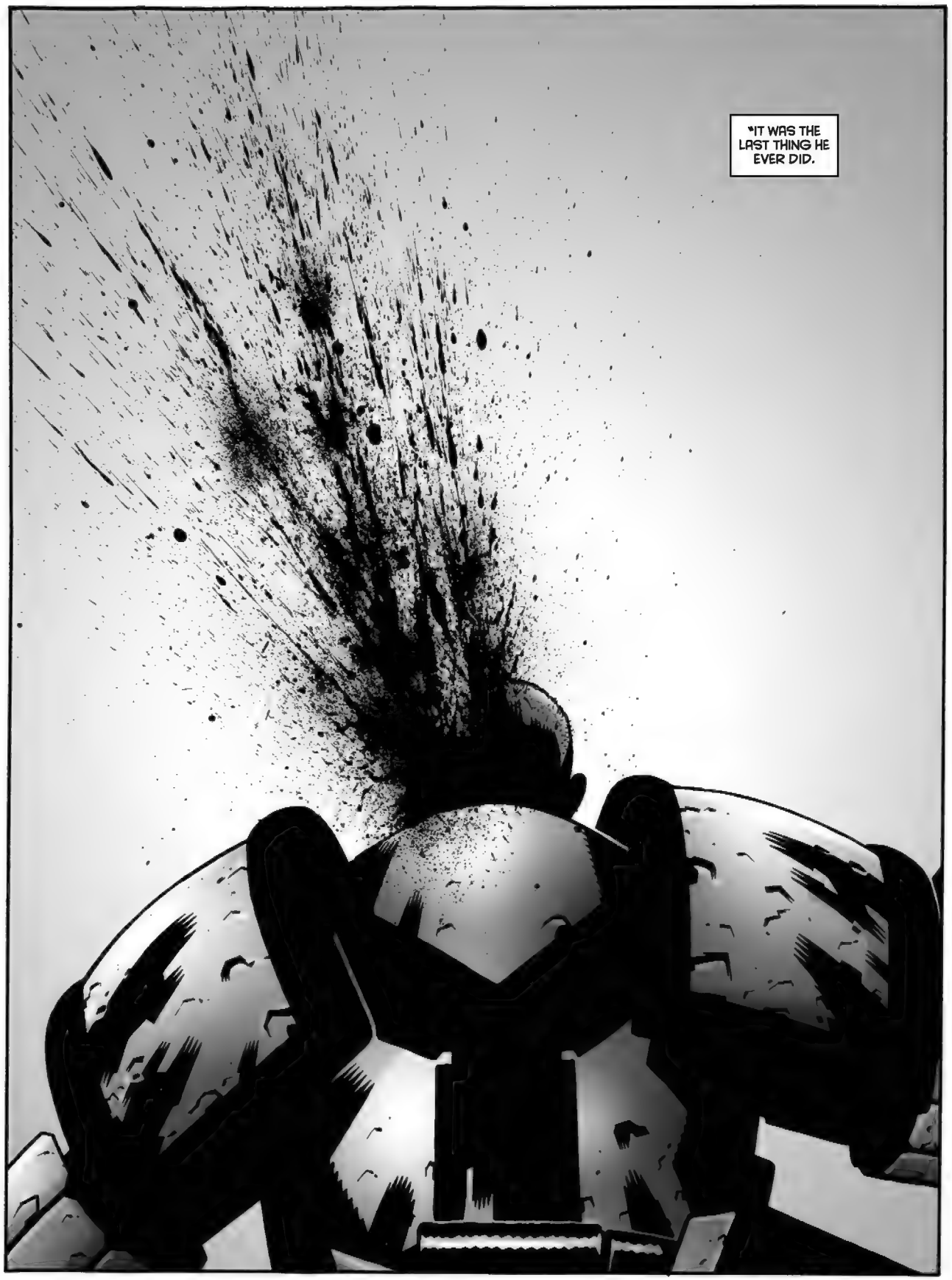
"ON GATEWAY, THEY HAD BRAINWASHED GALLOWS TO TAKE OUT 'THE MIGHTY LUTHER', THE ONLY HUMAN WHO HAD EVER BEATEN THEM.
"GALLOWS *KNEW* HE HAD BEEN BRAINWASHED, BUT HE COULDN'T FIGHT IT. HE COULDN'T EVEN *TELL* ANYONE.
"THE PROGRAMMING WAS DRIVING HIM FORWARD, TAKING HIM CLOSER AND *CLOSER* TO A MOMENT WHERE HE COULD *STRIKE LUTHER DOWN.*
"THE PROGRAMMING WAS SO *DEEPLY* EMPATHIC, IT ACTUALLY MEANT THAT GALLOWS KNEW ABOUT ZHIND TACTICS AND DISPOSITION IN *GREAT* DETAIL...
"...BUT HE COULDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THAT *EITHER.* THE PROGRAMMING *SHUT HIM DOWN.*
"ALL HE COULD DO WAS CARRY ON AND FIGHT THE URGE TO *KILL* LUTHER FOR AS *LONG* AS HE COULD."
ORDERS FROM LAUD. HE'S TELLING US TO LEAD THE ASSAULT ON HILL 719.
THAT'S *SUICIDE.*
IT'S ALSO THE ZHIND *COMMAND NODE.* WE TAKE IT, WE *END* THE WAR.
IT'S STILL SUICIDE. LAUD'S TREATING THE INSURRECTIONIST FORCES LIKE *EXPENDABLES.*
OF *COURSE* HE IS.

YOU LEAD, I'LL FOLLOW. WE'VE BEATEN THE ZHIND ONCE.
THANKS, SIMEON.
YOU GOING TO KEEP WEARING THAT MASK?
ALL LEADERS WEAR MASKS. THEY USE THEM TO HIDE THEIR OWN FEARS IN FRONT OF THEIR TROOPS.
YOURS IS A *LITERAL* MASK, LUTHER, AND THAT'S *NOT* WHY YOU WEAR IT.
WE *ALL* KNOW HOW BADLY WOUNDED YOU WERE ON FRATERNITY.
YOU WEAR THAT THING BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU LOOK LIKE SOME KIND OF *FREAK*.
IT'S THE *INSIDE* THAT MATTERS. THAT WAS THE *FIRST* LESSON YOU TAUGHT US. UPLIFTS, MUTANTS, MEKS, EVERYONE.
YOU ACCEPTED *US* FOR WHAT WE ARE. ACCEPT *YOURSELF*.

INFORM COMMANDER LAUD THAT WE ARE BEGINNING OUR ASSAULT.
YES, KAREL LUTHER.
REMEMBER HALCYON RIDGE?
HOW COULD I FORGET?
IT'LL BE JUST LIKE THAT.
HOW HARD CAN ONE HILL BE?
FIGHTING ORDER! TO THE STEP!
HEAVY WEAPONS LAY DOWN SUPPRESSING FIRE AS WE GO OVER.
MOVE FAST. HIT HARD.
LET'S TAKE OUR SPEED AND FIREPOWER AND GUT THEM WITH IT.
REMEMBER, WE'RE NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE THE SJS FORCED US.
WE DOING THIS BECAUSE IT NEEDS TO BE DONE.
WE'RE DOING THIS FOR EVERYONE AND ANYONE.

LIBERTY!

AFTER SIXTEEN WEEKS OF FIGHTING, THE WAR WITH THE ZHIND CAME DOWN TO *ONE* ACTION.
THE BATTLE FOR *HILL 719.*
HILL 719 WAS THE ZHIND COMMAND NODE. A *VITAL* TARGET. IT WAS ALSO *WELL* FORTIFIED.
SJS COMMANDER LAUD KNEW AN ASSAULT ON 719 WAS GOING TO BE AN *EXTREMELY* HIGH-COST CONTACT.
THAT'S WHY HE ORDERED THE *INSURRECTIONIST FORCES* TO SPEARHEAD THE ATTACK...
"...AND LUTHER DIDN'T HESITATE.
"HE LED THE CHARGE *PERSONALLY.*
LIBERTY!


*IT WAS THE LAST THING HE EVER DID.

L-LUTHER?
LUTHER?
OH NO.
NO!
MOVE! MOVE! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE!
THERE'S NO TIME TO GRIEVE! GET THE CHARGE GOING!
FOR GRUD'S SAKE, UP THE LADDERS!
YOU HEARD SIMEON!
MOVE! YOU WANT LUTHER'S DEATH TO COUNT FOR SOMETHING? MOVE!
GET UP AND INTO THE ZHIND! INTO THEM!
FREELY--!
LUTHER!

*THE ASSAULT RESTARTED.
*WORD OF LUTHER'S DEATH SPREAD QUICKLY ALONG THE LINE, BUT SIMEON AND GALLOWS KEPT THE FOCUS.
FREELY! STOP IT! HE'S DEAD, OKAY? HE'S DEAD!
WE HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO MOURN! THAT'S A LUXURY FOR LATER!
FIRST IT'S VENGEANCE!
COME ON, FREELY! LUTHER ONLY CARED ABOUT THE CAUSE! HE WOULD HATE IT IF HE KNEW PERSONAL FEELINGS FOR HIM WERE COMPROMISING OUR PRINCIPLES!
HE WOULD. YOU'RE RIGHT. HE TOTALLY WOULD.
SORRY.
LET'S PUSH IN. LET'S TAKE THAT STRONGPOINT.
AGREED. LET'S BRING SOME MEK HEAVIES UP HERE AND HIT THE ZHIND LINE AT THAT BUNKER.
NO.
Huh?
GALLOWS?
*LUTHER'S DEATH HAD ONE UNEXPECTED RESULT. IT FREED GALLOWS.

"THE ZHIND HAD PROGRAMMED GALLOWS TO KILL LUTHER, BUT WITH LUTHER DEAD, THE PROGRAMMING COLLAPSED.
"HOWEVER, THE ZHIND BRAINWASHING HAD BEEN DEEPLY EMPATHIC. IT HAD ALLOWED GALLOWS TO SHARE ASPECTS OF THE ZHIND MINDSIGHT, AS WELL AS SECRETS OF THEIR TACTICS AND DISPOSITION.
"SECRETS THAT HE WAS NOW AT LIBERTY TO SHARE."
NOT THE BUNKER. THAT'S JUST STORAGE. WE NEED MEK'S TO HIT THE FIREPORTS WEST OF THE BUNKER.
WHAT? HOW DO YOU--
LISTEN TO ME! WE NEED RAMSSES AND AUGUSTA TO BRING MEKS UP TO THE FIREPORTS!
SIMEON! YOU, ME AND TANG WILL LEAD THE UPLIFTS AGAINST THE DEFENCES ON THE EAST FLANK! THEIR POWER GENERATORS ARE JUST BEHIND THE EARTHWORK!
HOW THE DROKK DO YOU KNOW THIS?
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? TRUST ME. I KNOW.
FREELY, GATHER FUNX, HANDCOG AND THE OTHER TROOP LEADERS. YOU NEED TO TAKE THE MAIN FORCE IN AT THAT REVETMENT.
BUT--
FREELY, THERE'LL BE TIME FOR MOURNING AND EXPLAINING LATER. FOR NOW...PLEASE...
MOVE! MOVE! RAMSSES AND AUGUSTA, MOVE UP!
UPLIFTS MOVE UP AGAINST THE GENERATORS!
GET FUNX AND HANDCOG UP TO THIS POSITION!

FOR LIBERTY!
ALWAYS LIBERTY!
THIS IS FOR GATEWAY, BASTARDS!
INTO THEM! INTO THEM!

EAT IT!

THE ZONE IS SECURE, MARSHAL WE'VE TAKEN THE COMMAND NODE.
GRUD HELP US, WE HAVE.
WE ACTUALLY DID IT, LUTHER...
THIS IS MARSHAL FREELY TO SJS ASSAULT CONTROL.
HILL 719 IS SECURE. REPEAT, WE HAVE TAKEN HILL 719.
THE ZHIND NODE IS OURS. MOST OF THEIR COMMAND-LEVEL OFFICERS ARE DEAD, BUT SOME PRISONERS ARE REQUESTING TERMS FOR SURRENDER.
PLEASE CONFIRM.
I CONFIRM THAT THE INSURRECTIONIST FORCES HAVE TAKEN HILL 719.
THE WAR'S OVER.
WE HAVE CONFIRMATION, COMMANDER LAUD. THE ZHIND ARE FINISHED.
REPORTS ARE ALREADY COMING IN OF THEM DISENGAGING EN MASSE AND ATTEMPTING TO FLEE 43 REGA.
KILL THEM ALL. NO QUARTER.
THERE WILL BE NO TERMS. THE ZHIND WILL NOT LIVE TO PLAGUE US AGAIN.
I ASSUME LUTHER SUCCEEDED, THEN? HILL 719 IS IN OUR HANDS?
YES, SIR. IT IS REPORTED THAT LUTHER WAS K.I.A., SIR, AND HIS INSURRECTIONIST FORCES SUFFERED VERY HEAVY LOSSES.
BUT, YES, THEY TOOK HILL 719.

I SEE. ECKLUND?
YES, COMMANDER?
THE INSURRECTIONIST FORCES. KILL THEM ALL.

"THE BATTLE FOR HILL 719 WAS OVER. THE ZHIND HAD BEEN DEFEATED.
"THOUGH KAREL LUTHER WAS DEAD, HIS SO-CALLED 'INSURRECTIONIST' FORCES HAD WON THE WAR.
"THEY HAD SAVED EARTH AND THE BIG MEG. THEY HAD FOUGHT ALONGSIDE THOSE WHO HAD TRIED TO DENY THEM THEIR RIGHTS, AND THEY HAD DONE SO FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANKIND.
"WITH THE LAST SHOTS STILL RINGING OUT, LAUD OF THE SJS SAID--
THIS IS LAUD. I REPEAT THE ORDER:
THE ZHIND HAVE NOW CEASED TO BE OUR PRIMARY THREAT. THE INSURRECTIONISTS HAVE MOVED BACK UP INTO THAT SLOT ON OUR HAZARD LIST.
THEY ARE WOUNDED, AND THEIR GUARD IS DOWN. FOR THE SAKE OF THE MEGA-CITY, WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY.
KILL THEM ALL.

HILL 719, ON THE SURFACE OF 43 REGA.
IS THIS WHAT VICTORY FEELS LIKE, SIMEON?
WE BEAT THE ZHIND, FREELY. WE BEAT THE DROKKIN' ZHIND.
WE SAVED YOUR SPECIES, AND MY BREED, AND THE MUTIES AND THE MEKS. WE SAVED EARTH.
ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR ALL ALONG?
MAYBE NOW THE POWERS THAT BE WILL SEE WE'RE NOT SCUM. THEY'LL REALISE WE'RE PRINCIPLED.
OH, MOST SURELY, MARSHAL FREELY. YOU MUST REMEMBER.
WE'VE TASTED IT BEFORE, HALCYON RIDGE AND--
NOT LIKE THIS. IT TASTES BITTER.
THE PEOPLE WE'VE LOST. THE COMPROMISES WE'VE MADE.
LUTHER'S DEAD, FOR GRUD'S SAKE.
HOW PROUD WOULD LUTHER BE RIGHT NOW?
UPLIFTING WORDS FROM AN UPLIFT. I EXPECTED NO LESS.
HEY, SIMEON. FREELY. YOU BOTH OKAY?
YEAH.
YOU, GALLOWS?
AMAZING CALLS YOU MADE AFTER LUTHER DIED. AMAZING TACTICS.
MAYBE IT'S TIME TO TALK, GALLOWS?

DROKK! WHO'S SHOOTING?
THAT'S HEAVY FIRE! AND CLOSE!
THAT'S...NOT ZHIND. IT'S JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WEAPONS TEK.
THIS IS FREELY! WHO'S SHOOTING? REPEAT, WHO'S SHOOTING?
SOMEONE GIVE ME A DROKKIN' SIT-REP!
THIS IS RAMSSES! MY UNIT IS UNDER HEAVY FIRE! HARD CONTACT!
IT'S--
++BZZTTT++
RAMSSES! RAMSSES!

WHAT THE GRUD'S GOING *ON* DOWN THERE?
IT'S THE SJS! CAN'T THEY SEE--
YES. THEY *CAN.*
NO. *NO.* THEY...
THEY WOULDN'T. THEY *COULDN'T.*
ALL FORCES! *ALL FORCES!* DEFEND YOURSELVES! THE MEG BASTARDS HAVE *TURNED* ON US! I REPEAT--
SJS DROP BATTALION NINER NINE. THE ORDER'S GIVEN.
ADVANCE. CLEAR THE ZONE.
THE SENTENCE IS DEATH.

FREELY! FREELY! BACK THIS WAY! IT'S A ROLLING BARRAGE!
THEY'VE PENNED US!
YOU BASTARDS! YOU BASTARDS!
I CANNOT BELIEVE ANYONE OR ANYTHING COULD BE THIS TREACHEROUS!
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN! YOU'RE NOT HUMAN!
FREELY!
UUHNNN!
FREELY? OH GRUD, NO! FR--

YOU REST NOW. OKAY?
YOU JUST REST. IT'S OKAY TO REST.
THIS...THIS IS SIMEON. ANYONE? ANYONE RESPOND?
TANG? COME BACK.
FUNX? HANDCOG?
MARSHAL AUGUSTA, PLEASE RESPOND TO ME.
THIS IS SIMEON.
ANYONE? PLEASE RESPOND.
PLEASE--

ALL RIGHT! ALL *RIGHT*, YOU *MONSTERS!*
LET'S *FINISH* IT.
YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU CAN KILL ALL THE FLESH YOU *LIKE*, BUT YOU CAN'T KILL--
GRAAARRGH!
YOU CAN'T KILL--
UUKK!

"IDEAS. THAT'S WHAT SIMEON WOULD HAVE SAID. YOU CAN'T KILL IDEAS."
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, TALKING TO YOU, AND TELLING YOU THIS STORY.
THIS IS MY LIFE. TO COMMUNICATE LUTHER'S MESSAGE. TO SHARE IT.
I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR A LONG TIME.

I'VE BEEN DOING IT SINCE HILL 719, ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
LUTHER, FREELY, AUGUSTA, SIMEON...*ALL* OF THEM.
THEY DIED. THEY WERE *MURDERED. BECAUSE* OF THEIR IDEAS.
THEY DIED, BUT THE PRINCIPLE OF *LIBERTY* LIVES ON. IT IS NOT LIMITED TO ONE BEING.
IT IS ALIVE ALL THE WHILE *WE CHERISH* IT. IT IS ALIVE ALL THE WHILE THESE STORIES ARE TOLD AND *RETOLD.*
REMEMBER LUTHER. FREELY. SIMEON.
REMEMBER WHAT THEY DID AND *WHY* THEY DID IT.
TELL THE STORY TO *OTHERS.*
LIBERTY IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR. I'VE SEEN THAT IT'S WORTH *DYING* FOR, TOO.
YOU CAN KILL FLESH, BUT YOU CAN'T KILL IDEAS.
TIME TO GO, GALLOWS.
YEAH, 7. TIME TO GO.
THANKS FOR LISTENING TO ME TONIGHT.
JUDGES WILL ALWAYS BE JUDGES. TYRANNY WILL ALWAYS BE TYRANNY.
LIBERTY WILL *ALWAYS* BE LIBERTY.
REMEMBER THAT. TELL SOMEONE.

GALLERY & DAN ABNETT SCRIPT

Judge Dredd Megazine 334: Cover by **Neil Roberts**

Judge Dredd Megazine 342: Cover by **Colin MacNeil**

INSURRECTION
Book III Script

Page One

1. On opening page like the previous "season openers": a series of "screenshot" panels out of black of someone talking to camera. This is Gallows, talking to us, sending a video message home to his family.

First shot is a typeset caption card.

Screen copy
PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM WILLARD GALLOWS, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COLONIAL MARSHAL 575657565775, DUTY LOCATION GATEWAY COLONY
line break
TO: THE GALLOWS FAMILY, MEGA CITY ONE, EARTH

2. Digital static.

[no dialogue]

3. On Gallows, young, smiling.

JAG
HEY, FOLKS. MUM AND DAD. UNCLE ROONEY. CHRISTA. HEY, ALL.
JOINED
HOW ARE YOU DOING? ALL PACKED? ALL SET?
LINK
SWEAR TO GRUD, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU OUT HERE. YOU'RE GOING TO LOVE GATEWAY COLONY. I'M SO GLAD YOU DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE THE OLD MEG FOR EVER.

4. He's slightly more serious.

JAG
MUM, I KNOW IT'S A BIT DAUNTING, BUT YOU WON'T REGRET IT. WITH THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE IN THE OLD MEG THESE DAYS, YOU'RE BETTER OFF WITH A LIFE OFF WORLD.

5. He laughs.

JAG
THE FUTURE'S OUT HERE. BEAUTIFUL PLACES, HIGHER STANDARDS OF LIVING. JOB PROSPECTS, EVEN FOR AN OLD REPROBATE LIKE UNCLE ROONEY.
JOINED
SERIOUSLY, YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO SMELL THE LIPSKYS' COOKING STINKING THE WHOLE BLOCK AGAIN.

6. Really hopeful and positive.

JAG
GATEWAY IS AMAZING. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES ARE MAKING THE MOVE AND COMING HERE EACH WEEK. THE COLONIES BECKON.

6. He leans forward, earnest and excited.

JAG
AND I HAVE GREAT NEWS... BECAUSE OF MY POSITION HERE, I THINK I'VE MANAGED TO GET YOUR COLONISATION VISAS FAST TRACKED. YOU'LL BE HERE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS, BUT THEN YOU'LL BE ON TO YOUR PERMANENT PLACEMENT, A FANTASTIC COLONY WORLD CALLED K GAMMA 23.
JOINED
APPARENTLY IT'S EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THERE. THEY HAVE MOUNTAINS. YOU ALWAYS SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE MOUNTAINS, MUM.

7. He sits back, smiling.

JAG
OKAY, I'M USING UP MY ALL COM CRED. I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REGRET THIS.
JOINED
SEE YOU IN A WEEK.

8. Caption card.

Screen copy
MESSAGE ENDS

Page Two

1. Cut to a page wide shot of his family: Mum, dad, uncle and young kid sister, all looking up in wonder and amazement. Mum is almost tearful with joy (older parents . We're tight in on them, so we don't see their surroundings, but they are in sunlight. If they look a little like turn of the century emigrants just arrived in New York: poor, overdressed in too many coats, maybe carrying too much hand luggage - great.

MUM
IT'S BEAUTIFUL. SO BEAUTIFUL.
DAD
SO MUCH SKY. NOT LIKE THE BIG MEG.

2. Pull out, big shot. Gallows in his smart Marshal Uniform but no helmet is leading his family through the gleaming streets of Gateway. The city is clean and beautiful and soaring. A dream of the future. Happy, beautiful, clean, affluent people all around. His family are too busy looking around in awe to pay much attention to him.

GALLOWS
IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU GUYS HERE FINALLY.
JOINED
THIS IS AN AMAZING THING YOU'RE DOING. AS SOON AS YOU'RE SETTLED ON K GAMMA 23, I'M GOING TO APPLY FOR A TRANSFER SO I CAN
MUM
GATEWAY'S SO BEAUTIFUL.
JOINED
AND YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF IT, WILLARD?

3. He looks at his mother, smiling patiently.

GALLOWS
NO, MUM. NO. I'M A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COLONIAL MARSHAL.
JOINED
I'M ONE OF THE OFFICERS WHO MAKE GATEWAY A SAFE PLACE. I'M NOT IN CHARGE

4. He glances at his uncle, who is awestruck but more wary.

UNCLE
IS IT SAFE, WILL?
JOINED
YOU HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT ALIENS. ALIENS EATING INNOCENT HUMANS -
GALLOWS
THERE ARE NO ALIENS, UNCLE ROONEY
UNCLE
YOU REMEMBER THE KLEGGS? THEY ATE PEOPLE

5. He leads them on, ushering them, reassuring them.

GALLOWS
SERIOUSLY, GATEWAY HAS STATE-OF THE- ART DEFENCES, AND A PERMANENTLY STATIONED FLEET.
JOINED
NO ALIENS ARE GOING TO TOUCH IT.

Page Three

1. Longshot of the walking along the street (boulevard? So we get more of a taste of the beautiful city.

GALLOWS
THIS IS THE FUTURE, MUM, DAD. THE COLONIAL PROGRAMME IS MANKIND'S GREAT EXPANSION. WE'RE MAKING SPACE SAFE FOR ALL HUMANS.
JOINED
TELL ME THIS ISN'T INFINITELY PREFERABLE TO MEGA CITY ONE?

2. He turns to his dad, but is interrupted by a com link (glove?) beeping. His dad is grave, serious.

DAD
IT'S HELL THERE, SON.
GALLOWS
I HEARD IT WAS BAD, DAD. HOW-
FX
BIP BIP BIP

3. His family look at him as he checks his 'text'.

MUM
WHAT'S THIS THING NOW?
GALLOWS
SHIFT ALERT. I'M BEING CALLED IN.
JOINED
I GOTTA GO. SORRY. YOU GUYS TAKE THE PEDWAY TO YOUR ACCOMMODATION CENTRE, AND I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU LATER.

4. He crouches to hug his little sister.

CHRISTA
CAN'T YOU SHOW US AROUND, WILLARD? YOU PROMISED.
GALLOWS
LATER, CHRISTA. I DO PROMISE.

5. Shot of him on his bike (like a Judge bike but more streamlined? Or more "off road" and colonial? Anyway, he roars through the magnificent streets of the colonial city.
[no dialogue]

6. Shot of him (with other light traffic) powering down a highway. In the foreground, we see the droid work gangs constructing an overpass extension or similar. Basically, establish droids building city.
[no dialogue]

Page Four

1. He rides on, approaching the Colonial Marshals HQ. This is an overhead shot from high above to establish blue collar Uplift steeplejacks doing high steel work buildings a tower nearby, like the classic New York skyscraper builder shots. One looks down at the bike below.
[no dialogue]

2. He pulls up on the forecourt or parking dock of the huge HQ. I think this is much more military and functional/frontier than the Justice Department buildings in Mega City. Other Marshals, plus lots of civil servants and droids, hustle all around. Some marshals are dismounting from other bikes, called in like Gallows. One is August, who calls to him. I'm thinking she should be black or Indian?

GALLOWS
AUGUSTA. WHAT'S UP?
JOINED
ARE THEY MESSING WITH THE SHIFT ROTAS AGAIN?
AUGUSTA
NO. SOME KIND OF THING. ANOTHER EXERCISE IS MY GUESS.
GALLOWS
I THOUGHT I HAD FOUR HOURS OFF.

3. They walk in together, side by side, in the general bustle. Impressive buidling. Very "Justice y".

AUGUSTA
YEAH, I FORGOT. YOU'RE FAMILY'S IN, AREN'T THEY?
JOINED
BIG STEP, AN OFF WORLD MOVE.
GALLOWS
YOU LIVE HERE, AUGUSTA. TELL ME IT'S NOT THE SMART THING TO DO. EARTH THESE DAYS...

4. Tighter, she glances at him, a concerned look.

AUGUSTA
YOU HEAR ABOUT PRODUCTION VENUE 33?
GALLOWS
WHAT ABOUT IT?

5. On Augusta.

AUGUSTA
ANOTHER UPRISING, THEY SAY. NOT OFFICIAL YET, BUT IT WAS ON CHANNELS.

6. He's disgusted, very disapproving.

GALLOWS
DROKKIN' REBELS.
AUGUSTA
THEY SAY IT'S THAT LUTHER AGAIN.

Page Five

1. They walk into a big command centre where lots of their kind are assembling for the briefing.

GALLOWS
I CANNOT BELIEVE A JUSTICE MARSHAL WOULD TURN LIKE THAT. DON'T CARE WHAT THE INCITEMENT.
AUGUSTA
I THOUGHT THE SIS HAD STOPPED HIM ON K ALPHA 61.
GALLOWS
MEN LIKE THAT SHAME THE BADGE.

2. He glances at Augusta as their boss, an old, tough guy, is taking the dais or podium. A marshal announces him.

MARSHAL
COMMANDER ON COMM.

3. On the boss, grave.

RABINOVIC
STAND EASY. LISTEN UP.
JOINED
I'VE CALLED YOU IN BECAUSE WE'VE GOT A SHADOW SIXTEEN POINTS LATERAL OF THE FIFTH MOON.
I WANT EVERYONE ON STANDBY UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT IT IS.

4. Augusta calls out from the assembled marshals, a note of worry.

AUGUSTA
SO THIS ISN'T AN EXERCISE?
RABINOVIC
NO, MARSHAL AUGUSTA, SO GET YOUR MARSHAL RESERVES READY.
JOINED
LOOK, IT'S PROBABLY ANOTHER GLITCH IN THE GRID, BUT FLEET SCOUTS SAY THEY SAW WHAT LOOKED LIKE DRIVE WAKES OUT BY 23 GRAIL FLAVIS LAST MONTH.

5. The boss flashes up maybe graphic projections of the planet, its moons, fleet dispositions and general "space map" stuff on screens behind him.

MARSHAL
in crowd
IS THE FLEET ON STANDBY, SIR?
RABINOVIC
OF COURSE.
JOINED
LOOK, IN THE VERY REMOTE CHANCE THAT THE SHADOW IS A CLOAKED ALIEN RAID SHIP AND NOT A PIECE OF DRIFTING ORBIT TRASH, THE FLEET IS READY TO KICK ASS...

6. Let's cut here to an awesome shot of that Fleet in orbit, the magnificent planet below or above . Spaceship porn. Huge fleet power. Battle cruisers of immense size.

CAPTION
"...GATEWAY HAS THE FINEST AND STRONGEST STANDING FLEET DIVISION IN THE QUADRANT. DON'T YOU FORGET IT."

Page Six

1. Back on the boss addressing the marshals.

RABINOVIC
SO CALL IN YOUR RESERVISTS, GET ON YOUR PLACEMENTS, AND WAIT.
JOINED
THIS IS NOTHING. WE'LL GET THE ALL CLEAR IN SIX HOURS. UNTIL THEN, BY THE BOOK.
CAPTION
"LOOK, DAD, IT'S JUST A ROUTINE THING. AN EXERCISE. I'LL COME BY IN THE MORNING."

2. Cut to Gallows in full marshal kit talking on a communicator in the dingy confines of a hold space. He is concerned. He's on the hanger deck of an "aircraft carrier" type ship.

JAG
EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, WILLARD?
GALLOWS
EVERYTHING'S FINE, DAD. GO GET A MEAL AND SOME SLEEP. CALM MUM DOWN. I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.

3. Pull out as he turns, switching off his comm, to face his platoon of uplifts waiting for him. There are 20 at least, all apes, all slovenly but powerful. In the BG, lets see Augusta drilling her mek platoon, and other platoons being assembled, plus loaders and cargo lifters etc.

UPLIFT wobbly
THIS IS JUST AN EXERCISE, RIGHT, MARSHAL GALLOWS?
GALLOWS
YES, WHOOPER.

4. Face to face, Gallows looks up at the massive ape.

UPLIFT wobbly
GOOD, 'CAUSE THE NEW RESIDENTIAL BURBS WON'T BUILD THEMSELVES.

JOINED
US UPLIFTS ARE CRAFTSMEN, SIR, NOT SOLDIERS.
GALLOWS
YOU'RE RESERVIST SOLDIERS RIGHT NOW, WHOOPER. GET THE MEN TO FALL IN.

5. Leaving his apes drilling, Gallows walks over to join Augusta and her well ordered meks.

AUGUSTA
TROUBLE?
GALLOWS
SAME OLD. THE UPLIFTS RESENT BEING RESERVISTS.

6. On her.

AUGUSTA
THEY'LL RESENT IT MORE IF AN EXTRO RAID BITES THEM ON THE ARSE AND THERE'S NO MILITIA TO DRIVE IT OFF.
JOINED
GIVE ME MY MEK RESERVISTS ANY DAY. JUST PROGRAMMED TO DO WHAT THEY DO. NEVER A WORD OF COMPLAINT.

7. Both react in alarm as klaxons sound.

Fx
AROOO AROOOOO AROOOOO
AUGUSTA
WHAT IN GRUD'S NAME...?

Page Seven

1. Massive shot of Zhind attack ships blasting in through space in formation.

CAP
"HOLY DROKK. THOSE ARE ZHIND ATTACK SHIPS."

2. Cut to the Boss Rabinovic on a cruiser bridge. Grim and serious, calling orders. Bridge crew all around. Attackers or tactical display on screens.

RABINOVIC
OKAY, THIS IS THE REAL THING. EVERYONE KEEP THEIR HEADS.
JOINED
THE FLEET IS BREAKING ANCHOR AND WE WILL BE TAKING THESE ZHIND GATECRASHERS BACK TO THE STONE AGE.

3. Huge shot of the fleet moving out to meet the attacking squadrons.
[no dialogue]

4. Vast ship to ship action. As long range and huge as you can manage in comic book terms. Only Zhind losses.

[no dialogue]

Page Eight

1. More huge ship to ship action. Again only Zhind losses and there's still a lot of them .

JAG NO TAIL
STRATEGIC UPDATE TO MY CONSOLE.

2. Back on the boss on the bridge, all very urgent and tense, screens alive all over the place. The command bridge in the middle of a huge fight. A marshal (could be female) is reporting to him, but he's distracted by a screen he's reading.

MARSHAL
WE'VE STOPPED TWENTY TWO PER CENT OF THEIR FIRST STRIKE SHIPS, SIR.
JOINED
TACTICAL PRESENTATION SAYS WE SHOULD TURN THE FLEET, SWITCH TO "FALCON" FORMATION, AND COUNTER STRIKE THEM BEFORE THEY CAN MAKE A DIRECT RUN ON GATEWAY—

RABINOVIC
HOLD THAT.

MARSHAL
SIR?

3. He turns to her, grave, not really believing it himself. She's horrified.

RABINOVIC
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED DIRECT ORDERS FROM THE SJS.
JOINED
THE GATEWAY FLEET IS BEING REROUTED TO SUPPORT VITAL ACTION AT PRODUCTION VENUE 33. WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

MARSHAL
BUT, SIR...

4. Tight on him.

RABINOVIC
THOSE ARE THE ORDERS. THE REBELLION ON VENUE 33 APPARENTLY PRESENTS A REAL AND DIRECT THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF MEGA CITY ONE ITSELF.
JOINED
THERE IS NO HIGHER PRIORITY.
JOINED
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

5. Tighter.

RABINOVIC
OPEN COMS. I NEED TO TELL THE TROOPS.

Page Nine

Full page splash. Back on the carrier deck, looking down at the assembled platoons waiting to deploy all prepped and ready for drop or boarding actions . We see several, but focus on Augusta and her meks and · front and centre, Gallows and his uplifts. Everyone is looking up at us, hearing the broadcast, astonished. Gallows is totally horrified.

JAG FROM SPEAKER
—I SAY AGAIN, THESE ARE OUR NEW ORDERS, ISSUED BY THE SJS AT OH-FIVE-THIRTY TODAY—

GALLOWS
WAIT... WHAT?
JOINED
WHAT THE DROKK IS THIS?

DTP

NEXT ISSUE: FROM HERE TO FRATERNITY!

DAN ABNETT

Dan Abnett is a seven-times *New York Times* bestselling author and an award-winning comic book writer. He has written over fifty novels, including the acclaimed *Gaunt's Ghosts* series, the *Eisenhorn* and *Ravenor* trilogies, volumes of the million-selling *Horus Heresy* series, *The Silent Stars Go By* (the 2011 Christmas *Doctor Who* novel), *Rocket Raccoon and Groot: Steal the Galaxy, Tomb Raider: The Ten Thousand Immortals, Fiefdom* (Rebellion), *Triumff: Her Majesty's Hero,* and *Embedded.* In comics, he is known for his work on *The Legion of Super-Heroes, Resurrection Man, The New Mutants, Nova* and the Vertigo series *The New Deadwardians.* His 2008 run on *The Guardians of the Galaxy* for Marvel formed the inspiration for the blockbuster movie. A regular contributor to the UK's long-running *2000 AD,* he is the creator of series including *Grey Area, Kingdom* and the classic *Sinister Dexter.* He has also written extensively for the games industry, including *Shadow of Mordor* and *Alien:Isolation.* Dan's latest comic work includes the creator-owned series *Wilds End* (Boom!) and *Dark Ages* (Dark Horse), and the new *Guardians 3000* series for Marvel.

COLIN MACNEIL

Since joining *2000 AD* in 1986 **Colin MacNeil** has worked on many strips, including *Chopper: Song of the Surfer* and the infamous death of Johnny Alpha in *Strontium Dog: The Final Solution*. He went on to collaborate with John Wagner on the award-winning *America* for the *Judge Dredd Megazine*. He has also worked on *Shimura*, *Maelstrom* and *Fiends of the Eastern Front: Stalingrad*, and, outside of the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, provided the atmospheric artwork on *Bloodquest* for Games Workshop. He also enjoys creating large abstract paintings. He says it's art therapy!

WORTH FIGHTING FOR... WORTH DYING FOR...

MEGA-CITY COLONIAL SPACE, 2135 AD. Mining colony K Alpha 61 renamed itself Liberty after cutting loose from the Big Meg. Furious at this dissent, and in a bid to stop the revolt spreading to other colonies, the SJS launched a blistering attack on Colonial Marshal Karel Luther's forces. Now, the alien Zhind have stepped up their attacks on the colony worlds causing an uneasy alliance to form between the SJS and the insurrectionists...

This thrilling conclusion to *Insurrection* was written by Dan Abnett (*Guardians of the Galaxy*) with art by Colin MacNeil (*Judge Dredd*).

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